

Lesson 4 | Faith that Fights an Army

Genesis 14:1-24

Genesis 14 is a strange and captivating story, but above all it is a story of faith. Abram's faith is tested as now he must rescue his captured nephew and interact with kings in a way that honors God.

The Background – 5 Kings Versus 4 (14:1-12)

_____ against Mesopotamia (14:1-7)

In this chapter we read about five kings in Canaan who were vassal states of a king named Chedorlaomer, living near what would later be Babylon. After making tribute payments for twelve years, these kings decided to rebel against Chedorlaomer, and in response he gathered his allies and came down to teach these rebels a lesson.

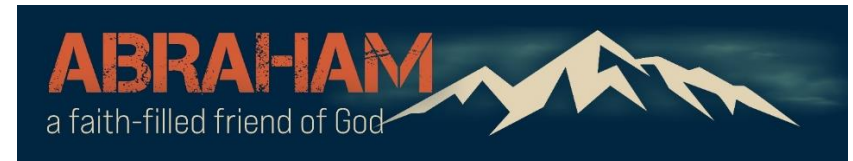
The Canaanites Are _____ (14:8-12)

Most of the Old Testament history sees smaller countries serving larger countries, only to rebel and later be crushed. The kings of Canaan lose badly and flee for their lives, and their soldiers fall into tar pits. Leaving behind the soldiers the kings from the north take the stuff they find in Sodom, including Lot and his possessions.

Abram's First Test of Faith (14:13-16)

Abram's faith demonstrated _____ (14:13)

The whole story up until this point has emphasized the power of these kings and the fact that they are untouchable. Fear looks at the obstacles. Faith looks at what needs to be done and trusts God for the right outcome. Fear says "I can't," while faith says "I can't, but God can."



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Abram's faith _____ others (14:14)

That Abram is willing to go after his nephew is impressive, but perhaps more impressive is how many other people are willing to follow him. Abram takes along 318 servants and brings along several allies (cf 14:24). When people trust God and move forward in faith, God can use that faith to motivate the faith of those watching.

Abram's faith demonstrated _____ (14:15)

It's important to note that for Abram, faith didn't mean a lack of common sense. Abram carefully planned out his attack, divided his troops, and attacked at night when the enemy was unsuspecting. Some people confuse boldly following God with taking unnecessary risks. God warns that we should never tempt God by rushing out ahead of Him and expecting Him to cover for our foolishness.

Abram's faith was _____ (14:16)

The faith of Abram resulted in a massive victory. Abram did what a confederation of five kings was unable to do – he beat the Mesopotamian alliance. Faith can accomplish incredible things.

Abram's Second Test of Faith (14:17-24)

Abram and _____ (14:17-20)

Although many have speculated about who Melchizedek is, we should take Genesis at face value when it said that he was the king of Salem and was priest to God. Abram's respectful acceptance of the blessing and his giving some of the spoils to God's priest show his humility and gratitude to God for what has happened.

Abram and _____ (14:21-24)

We see an interesting contrast here at the end of the story. Lot did everything he could to acquire wealth in Sodom. Abram, on the other hand, is offered free wealth and simply walks away from it, trusting God to provide for him.

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